

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed August 5, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 11-32 and 34-38. In addition, Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 33.

Claims 2, 4, 8, 9, and 10 were objected to in the Office Action. Each of the objections noted in the Office Action has been corrected in the claims and withdrawal of the objections is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bingham in view of Gudmundson. However, the Office Action goes on to indicate that claims 3 and 33 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Although Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, for purposes only of expediting prosecution, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the subject matter of claim 3 and canceled claim 3. In addition, Applicants have amended claim 33 to include the subject matter of claim 1 and have also added new dependents claims 39-47 that respectively correspond to dependent claims 2-10.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that all of claims 1, 2-47 should now be in allowable condition.

CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Dated: February 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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